

Appl. No. 10/678,206  
Atty. Docket No. 9049  
Amdt. dated 04-Oct-2006  
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2006  
Customer No. 27752

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hair treatment applicator for applying a hair treatment to hair, [[the]] said hair treatment applicator comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis and being ~~rigidly formed~~ molded from one or more plastic materials in an elongated form; and

a plurality of retaining structures connected to said handle, each of said plurality of retaining structures comprising a base and a plurality of tines and being configured for holding said hair treatment;

wherein said base faces in a direction substantially parallel to that of each other retaining structure and each of said plurality of tines extends substantially perpendicularly from said base; and

~~wherein said plurality of tines are disposed on said base such that each of said plurality of tines is comprised within a first row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said handle and a second row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said handle;~~

wherein each of said retaining structures is separated from each other of said plurality of retaining structures by a separation volume; and

~~wherein each of said plurality of retaining structures is configured for holding said hair treatment.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of tines are disposed on said base such that each tine is comprised within a first row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said handle and within a second row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said handle.

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5. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein said handle is integrally molded with each of said plurality of retaining structures.

6. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 5, wherein said hair treatment applicator is injection molded as a single piece.

7. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 6, wherein said hair treatment applicator is made from a moldable material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

8. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of tines is frusto-conical in shape.

9. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 8, wherein each of said plurality of tines which is frusto-conical in shape has a proximal end having a diameter from about 0.125 inches (about 0.318 cm) to about 0.3125 inches (about 0.794 cm) and a distal end having a diameter from about 0.0625 inches (about 0.159 cm) to about 0.375 inches (about 0.953 cm).

10. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of tines has a height from about 0.25 inches (about 0.64 cm) to about 1.0 inches (about 2.54 cm).

11. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein said separation volume has a width of at least about 0.25 inches (about 0.64 cm).

12. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of retaining structures further comprises at least one baffle extending from said base.

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13. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 11, wherein said baffle is substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said handle.

14. (New) A hair treatment applicator according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of retaining structures are connected to said handle in an arrangement which is bilaterally symmetrical across said longitudinal axis of said handle.

15. (New) A hair treatment applicator for applying a hair treatment to hair, the hair treatment applicator comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis and being molded from one or more plastic materials in an elongated form;

a first head being connected to said handle, said first head having a plurality of first tines disposed on said first head such that each tine of said plurality of first tines is comprised within a first row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said handle and within a second row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said handle, said plurality of first tines forming a first retaining volume configured for holding said hair treatment;

a second head being connected to said handle, said second head having a plurality of second tines disposed on said second head such that each tine of said plurality of second tines is comprised within a first row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said handle and within a second row of two or more tines aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said handle, said plurality of second tines forming a second retaining volume configured for holding said hair treatment; and

a separation volume, wherein said first retaining volume and said second retaining volume are separated by said separation volume.

16. (New) A combination of a hair treatment and a hair treatment applicator for applying said hair treatment to hair, said hair treatment applicator comprising:

a handle having a longitudinal axis and being molded from one or more plastic materials in an elongated form; and

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a plurality of retaining structures connected to said handle, each of said plurality of retaining structures comprising a base and a plurality of tines;

wherein said base faces in a direction substantially parallel to that of each other retaining structure and each of said plurality of tines extends substantially perpendicularly from said base;

wherein each of said retaining structures is separated from each other of said plurality of retaining structures by a separation volume; and

wherein said hair treatment is contained in each of said plurality of retaining structures and is not contained in said separation volume.